

# **YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM**

## **2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Missouri Department of Economic Development**



# **YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2011**

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The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. Through the 2011 application cycle, YOP allocated a total of \$4,956,415 in tax credits to 33 youth projects throughout the state. Contributions to these projects will fund programming for 32 youth service projects and the renovation and/or expansion of one facility. A 2011 project list is enclosed.

Approved 2011 projects have the potential to generate \$9,912,830 in contributions, leveraging approximately \$5 million in private sector dollars. Since its inception in 1997, YOP has raised \$110,882,338 in contributions for projects focused on serving Missouri's at-risk youth.

YOP primarily partners with non-profits that work in their communities to develop and implement projects and services for at-risk youth. Non-profits team up with the Youth Opportunities Program to leverage private dollars to fund projects that meet this goal. These programs help youth overcome their current circumstances and realize their potential as productive citizens. YOP is an incentive for non-profits to provide specialized programming for disadvantaged youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

The Youth Opportunities Program has established program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the impact the program is having throughout the state. Priority is given to projects with outcomes impacting one or more of the following five areas:

- 1. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school diploma.**
- 2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a GED.**
- 3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school and earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.**
- 4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.**
- 5. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and development program.**

Table 1.1 (on the next page) shows the amount of tax credits redeemed to date and reflects the true cost to the State for the outcomes achieved in Table 1.2. Taxpayers have the tax year in which they made a contribution, plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

**Table 1.1: Tax Credit Utilization**

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Credits Authorized To Date<sup>1</sup></b>	\$5,711,672	\$5,016,255	\$4,956,415
<b>Credits Issued To Date<sup>2</sup></b>	\$4,940,924	\$3,356,796	\$515,716
<b>Credits Redeemed To Date<sup>3</sup></b>	\$3,366,382	\$1,987,068	\$999

<sup>1</sup> Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 12/31/2011.

<sup>2</sup> Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 12/31/2011 for the projects authorized in each calendar year.

<sup>3</sup> Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 12/31/2011 for Contributions made to projects authorized in each year.

YOP projects that ended and were closed from 2009-2011 have reported the following results under each of the program outcomes (Table 1.2). The numbers are the totals to date for the projects that ended in each year. The outcome totals fluctuate from year to year due to varying project time frames, the types of projects funded each year, and the number of projects closed each year. Some numbers may include duplicated youth if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieved more than one outcome.

**Table 1.2: Outcomes Achieved**

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b># of Jobs Retained and New</b>	219	160	186
<b># Earning High School Diploma or GED</b>	433	27	156
<b># Earning School Credits/ Improving GPA</b>	25,924	940	11,021
<b># Not Committing Crimes &amp;/or completing Violence Prevention Courses</b>	9,345	1,528	15,939
<b># Abstaining from Drug &amp; Alcohol Use &amp; completing Prevention Programs</b>	4,567	1,364	9,390
<b># Completing Life Skills Training/Mentoring</b>	3,379	869	3,658
<b># Learning Employment Skills/Job Placement</b>	1,455	222	1,245
<b># Increasing Knowledge in Science, Math, Business</b>	288	14,324	52,135
<b># Achieving Other Outcomes</b>	5,822	974	14,698

As shown by the outcome data above, numerous projects are successfully helping youth become more productive adults with YOP tax credits as a tool. Boys and Girls Club of Poplar Bluff and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri are two such projects. With YOP, these organizations are contributing in a very real way to meet the needs of disadvantaged youth in our communities. The following summaries demonstrate the ways in which these agencies are making positive, lasting differences in the lives of Missouri's youth.

Currently approved for a two year YOP project, Boys and Girls Club of Poplar Bluff is using YOP tax credits to implement quality, affordable after school and summer programs for disadvantaged youth. With both a primary club site and a teen center, the Club provides an array of services that promote the development of self-esteem, values, and academic, employment, and life skills for boys and girls, ages 5-18 years for only \$20 annually. The programs offered focus on five core/critical areas:

- **Character and Development:**

Empowering youth to support and influence their Club and community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and others' cultural identities.

- **Education/Technology & Career**

**Development:** Enabling youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations and embrace technology to achieve success in a career.



- **Health & Life Skills:** Develop young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.
- **The Arts:** Create opportunities for youth to cultivate their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts and creative writing.
- **Sports, Fitness & Recreation:** Develop fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment and social skills.

Boys and Girls Club of Poplar Bluff's YOP performance targets for YOP include:



- 275 of 525 youth participating in Power Hour will increase their grades and 300 of 525 youth will miss less than 10 days of school/club.
- 390 of 525 youth participating will engage in prevention programming to increase knowledge of types of substances and life alternatives to use, and 390 of 525 will report no drug use or referrals to authorities.
- 65 teens, ages 11-15 will participate in employment programs offered.

The Club, with the aid of YOP credits, has increased the number of youth served in recent years and expects to double the number served over the next few years, reaching out to some of the most disadvantaged, at-risk youth in the Poplar Bluff area.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Eastern Missouri is also successfully utilizing the YOP program for its mentoring and education programs. Using YOP tax credits as a tool, the organization has expanded operations to provide one-to-one mentoring services to more than 2,700 at-risk youth in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, Jefferson County, Scott County, and Cape Girardeau County. In addition, Big Brothers Big Sisters has expanded its ABC Education Initiative, enabling more than 700 youth to participate in services that develop supportive relationships, improve academic performance and attitudes toward school, provide necessary education interventions, and decrease delinquency.

Founded in St. Louis in 1914, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri has carried on the tradition of changing children's lives through trusting and enduring relationships for nearly a century. The children served by the organization face multiple challenges. Many live in poverty, come from single parent households, have a parent behind bars and struggle in school, children in desperate need of extra support and encouragement. BBBS is able to provide that support.



Studies of the organization as a whole have shown that the at-risk youth ("Littles") participating in a BBBS mentoring program, compared to peers that were not involved in the program, were significantly more likely to have: received a four-year college degree, developed a more positive attitude toward school, reported higher levels of self-confidence, achieved higher grades, and were better able to express their feelings. "Littles" were also less likely to begin using drugs or alcohol, to skip school, or to engage in physical violence.

For YOP, Big Brothers Big Sisters' targets are as follows:

- 1,946 of 2,780 at-risk youth will maintain or show improvement in overall academic performance.
- 420 of 700 at-risk youth participating in the ABC Education Initiative will receive a grade of C or higher in reading and/or math.
- 2,641 of 2,780 at-risk youth will maintain or show improvement in ability to avoid delinquency.

Both of these organizations have used the YOP tax credits as a tool to raise more funds and ultimately serve more disadvantaged youth.

## Youth Opportunities Program - 2011 Project List

Organization Name	Authorized Amount	Credits Issued
A Million Stars	\$245,966.00	\$1,050.00
Aim High St. Louis	\$249,990.00	
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Eastern Missouri	\$199,618.00	\$75,253.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of The Ozarks	\$59,105.00	\$8,850.00
Boys & Girls Club Of Springfield, Inc.	\$178,066.00	
Boys And Girls Club Of Poplar Bluff	\$99,800.00	\$500.00
Boys And Girls Clubs Of Greater Kansas City	\$143,795.00	
Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center	\$125,000.00	
Catholic Family Services	\$120,600.00	
Child Abuse & Neglect Emergency Shelter, Inc. (Rainbow House)	\$150,000.00	\$9,545.00
Coca-Center Of Creative Arts	\$148,809.00	\$2,500.00
Community Living, Inc.	\$30,005.00	\$872.00
Covenant House Missouri	\$202,833.00	\$11,500.00
Epworth Children & Family Services	\$196,956.00	\$78,797.00
Family Support Network	\$158,096.00	\$8,400.00
German St. Vincent Orphan Association	\$235,147.00	
Girls On The Run Of St. Louis	\$51,890.00	\$17,557.00
Good Shepherd Children & Family ( Catholic Services For Child & Youth)	\$200,000.00	\$9,000.00
Independence Center	\$73,751.00	
Junior Achievement Of Mississippi Valley	\$231,220.00	\$13,600.00
Kingdom House	\$188,431.00	\$113,311.83
Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of Missouri	\$188,185.00	\$55,189.00
MBCH Professional Development Institute	\$79,060.00	
Metropolitan Organization To Counter Sexual Assault	\$66,377.00	
Ozanam	\$121,400.00	\$2,825.00
South Side Day Nursery	\$150,000.00	\$10,500.00
St. Patrick Center	\$171,735.00	\$12,219.00
Teach For America	\$212,894.00	\$25,000.00
The Children's Home Society Of Missouri	\$36,451.00	\$11,335.00
The Intersection	\$42,110.00	\$250.00
University City Children's Center	\$150,000.00	\$3,750.00
Wyman Center, Inc.	\$250,000.00	\$1,500.00
Youth In Need	\$199,125.00	\$43,412.00